

**Amendments to the specification:**

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following:

**CROSS-REFERENCE**

The invention described and claimed hereinbelow is also described in PCT/DE 03/01523, filed on May 12, 2003 and DE 102 35 562.2, filed August 3, 2002. This German Patent Application, whose subject matter is incorporated here by reference, provides the basis for a claim of priority of invention under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a)-(d).

On page 1, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

The present invention is based on a method for optical distance measurement ~~as generically defined by the preamble to claim 1~~ and on an apparatus for performing such a method ~~as generically defined by the preamble to claim 4~~.

On page 1, line 8, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Prior Art~~ Background of the Invention

On page 3, last line, please amend the heading as follows:

~~Advantages~~ Summary of the Invention

On page 4, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

The apparatus of the invention for optical distance measurement ~~as defined by claim 4~~ has a transmission branch, with at least one transmitter for transmitting modulated measurement beam in the direction of a target object. Advantageously, this transmitter is embodied as a laser diode, so that by modulation of the energy supply delivered to the laser diode, the desired high-frequency modulation can be impressed directly on the optical signal. The apparatus of the invention moreover has a reception branch, and the measuring receiver of the reception branch is embodied as a direct-mixing avalanche photodiode. This photodiode converts the incident optical signal into a corresponding electrical signal of the same frequency.

On page 5, please delete the first paragraph in its entirety.

On page 6, line 10, please amend the heading as follows:

Brief Description of the Drawings Drawing

On page 6, before line 28, please insert the following:

Brief Description of the Preferred Embodiments